

REMARKS

This paper is responsive to the Office Action dated October 31st, 2008 wherein claims 15-22 were allowed, claims 1-7 and 10-14 were rejected and claims 8-9 were objected to. By this paper, Applicants cancel claim 8, and amend claims 1 and 9. After the amendment, claims 1 - 7 and 9 - 22 remain pending in this application. In view of the following remarks, Applicants request further examination and reconsideration of the present patent application.

Amendment to claims

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate features of claim 8. The amended claim 1 now reads

"partially combusting a feed stream in a cyclical compression chamber in mechanical communication with a reciprocating piston or a rotary piston"

In the Office Action, the Examiner had mentioned that claim 8 is in allowable condition, except for dependency from a rejected claim 1. With this amendment, the Applicants believe that with incorporation of this limitation, the Applicants believe that claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 9 has been amended to correct its dependency. It originally depended from claim 8, which is now canceled. In the amended form, claim 9 now depends from claim 1 that recites features of claim 8. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the objection and consider allowance of claim 9 as well.

Rejections under 35 USC §102

The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1-5 and 14 under 35 USC §102(e), as being anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2003/0154654, hereinafter "Goebel."

Currently amended Claim 1 reads inter alia "partially combusting a feed stream in a cyclical compression chamber in mechanical communication with a reciprocating piston or a rotary piston" (emphasis added)

Goebel clearly lacks this feature and hence cannot anticipate independent claim 1 or any claims such as 2 - 5 and 14 that depend from claim 1. Hence Applicants respectfully request

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removal of aforesaid rejections under 35 USC §102 (e).

Rejections under 35 USC §103

The Examiner rejected claims 6, 7 and 10-13 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Goebel.

Claims 6, 7 and 10-13 are canceled by this amendment and hence the rejections are no longer applicable.

As discussed in previous section, Goebel lacks a feature of Independent claim 1 – involving "partially combusting a feed stream in a cyclical compression chamber in mechanical communication with a reciprocating piston or a rotary piston."

Claims 6, 7 and 10-13 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and hence inherit the aforesaid feature. Since Goebel does not teach / suggest /motivate the feature of using a cyclical compression chamber of the present claim 1, it cannot render the independent claim 1 and its dependent claims obvious. Hence Applicants respectfully request removal of aforesaid rejections under 35 USC §103.

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Summary

For the reasons set out above, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application are, therefore, respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that anything further is necessary to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is kindly asked to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: December 19, 2008